



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO STRUCTURE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to structure financial transactions so as to evade federal reporting requirements.

Abdirahman Hassan Jama, 34, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 7, 2003. **Jama**, who was born in Mogadishu, Somalia, is a naturalized citizen of the United States.

By pleading guilty today, **Jama** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to structure currency transactions at UMB Bank in Kansas City from as early as April 8, 1999 to Sept. 21, 2000. Under federal law, Graves explained, any currency transaction that involves more than \$10,000 must be reported to the government. **Jama** admitted that he made deposits at UMB Bank that were structured to evade the federal reporting requirement.

The purpose of the conspiracy, Graves said, was to transfer funds from the United States to accounts in other countries. **Jama** admitted that he made deposits of less than \$10,000 into UMB Bank on numerous occasions and at various locations. After making the deposits, **Jama** requested that UMB Bank transfer funds by wire to accounts in banks outside the United States, including banks located in the United Arab Emirates, Tanzania and Hong Kong.

In addition to the conspiracy charge, **Jama** also pleaded guilty to two counts of structuring deposits to evade federal reporting requirements. **Jama** admitted to making separate deposits of \$9,925 each on July 26 and Aug. 11, 1999. After each of those deposits, he caused UMB Bank to send a wire transfer of \$9,900 to the Emirates Bank International LTD, United Arab Emirates. **Jama** admitted that similar deposits and wire transfers occurred on at least 43

occasions during the course of the conspiracy, totaling \$425,602 in structured currency.

Under federal statutes, **Jama** could be subject to a sentence of up to 11 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$750,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow